

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6999–S7034

Measures Introduced: Twenty-three bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3029–3051, S.J. Res. 61–62, S. Res. 453–455, and S. Con. Res. 30. **Pages S7026–27**

Measures Reported:

S. 877, to prohibit the sale of shark fins. (S. Rept. No. 116–173)

S. 1822, to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–174)

S. 2641, to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. Con. Res. 23, honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge fought during World War II, recognizing the valiant efforts of the Allied Forces in December 1944, and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice, all of which contributed to the Allied victory in the European Theater, and with an amended preamble. **Page S7026**

Measures Passed:

Armenian Genocide: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 150, expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S7010**

Legal Representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 455, to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the Case of *Richard Arjun Kaul v. Senator Charles Schumer, et al.* **Page S7033**

Battle of the Bulge: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 23, honoring the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge fought during World War II, recognizing the valiant efforts of the Allied Forces in December 1944, and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice, all of which contributed to the Allied

victory in the European Theater, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

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McConnell (for Cramer) Amendment No. 1256, to add language to the preamble. **Page S7034**

Conference Reports:

National Defense Authorization Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 1790, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Pages S7019–23**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the conference report to accompany the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, December 12, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 16, 2019. **Page S7019**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3:00 p.m., on Monday, December 16, 2019, Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, December 12, 2019, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 16, 2019. **Page S7034**

Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), as amended by Public Law 101–595, and further amended by Public Law 113–281, appointed the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: Senator Wicker. **Page S7033**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 52 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. EX. 395), Aurelia Skipwith, of Indiana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

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By 70 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. EX. 396), John Joseph Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation. **Pages S7009–10**

By 72 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 397), Stephen Hahn, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. **Pages S7010–15**

Messages from the House: **Page S7026**

Measures Referred: **Page S7026**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7026**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7027–29**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S7029–33

Additional Statements: **Pages S7024–26**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S7033**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S7033**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—397) **Pages S7009–10, S7015**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5 p.m., until 11:45 a.m. on Friday, December 13, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7034.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Committee on Armed Services: Committee received a closed briefing on national security issues in the Middle East from John C. Rood, Under Secretary for Policy, Major General Jeffrey B. Taliaferro, USAF, Vice Director for Operations, Joint Staff, and Christopher J. Almont, Defense Intelligence Officer for the Middle East, Defense Intelligence Agency, all of the Department of Defense.

COAST GUARD ARCTIC STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Security concluded a hearing to examine expanding opportunities, challenges, and threats in the Arctic, focusing on the Coast Guard Arctic Strategic Outlook, after receiving testimony from Admiral Charles W. Ray, Vice Commandant, Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; and Heather A. Conley, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Sherri Goodman, and Mike Sfraga, both of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 225, to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 258, to prohibit oil and gas leasing on the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains Ranger District located in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 298, to establish the Springfield Race Riot National Historic Monument in the State of Illinois, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 327, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 389, to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in Presidential Park in the District of Columbia, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 430, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 434, to provide for a report on the maintenance of Federal land holdings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 490, to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge", with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 526, to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 641, to update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Yucca House National Monument, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 774, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, with an amendment;

S. 1152, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain parcels of Federal land in Arlington, Virginia, with an amendment;

S. 1262, to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest